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Date: May 7, 1998
To: BDAC Members
From: Lester Snow 
Subject: Nature of Decision/Selecting an Preferred Alternative

The accompanying draft paper, "Nature of Decision/Selecting a Preferred Alternative", was presented and discussed at the CALFED Policy Group meeting on May 1, 1998. The paper acknowledges the advantages of staged implementation of the preferred alternative and presents some characteristics and example linkages for an implementation plan. The staged implementation must be designed with appropriate linkages to assure equity and stability over time.

The paper also discusses the nature of the programmatic decision ranging from making a single programmatic decision on the preferred alternative to an agreement to stage the decision in parts over a number of years. The CALFED Policy Group discussed this range of potential decisions and decided that a decision near either end of this range was unlikely. The Policy Group asked that staff and the CALFED Management Team further explore how a decision may be structured nearer the middle of the range.

Staff is seeking BDAC discussion of the key issues surrounding the nature of the decision at the May 14th meeting. This will, in turn, help guide the development of the Implementation Plan and decision support documents that will accompany the final environmental documentation.

CALFED Agencies

California	The Resources Agency Department of Fish and Game Department of Water Resources California Environmental Protection Agency State Water Resources Control Board	Federal	Environmental Protection Agency Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service Bureau of Reclamation U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Department of Commerce National Marine Fisheries Service
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